

# CENTRAL SCHOOL

Te Kura Waenga O Ngāmotu



## NAG 6 – ANIMAL WELFARE POLICY

### PURPOSE

Central School Te Kura Waenga O Ngāmotu will ensure that the school community has an awareness of safe and proper handling and housing of animals that are part of the school classroom environment.

### POLICY

1. To encourage through example, the proper care of living things within the school environment.
2. To ensure that the care and welfare of animals has highest priority in any activity involving the keeping of an animal or its study on a field trip.
3. To educate children through example and discussion on the importance of animal care and welfare and the responsibilities involved.

### GUIDELINES

1. An animal is defined as any living creatures with a backbone, including land based and aquatic mammals, birds, fish and reptiles.
2. It is generally accepted that other living creatures such as snails, worms and insects must be treated with care and kindness.
3. If the appropriate care cannot be provided, the animal(s) should not be kept in school.
4. Creatures kept in classrooms for observation must be housed and fed properly, and returned to their habitat on completion of the study.
5. Creatures captured on field trips must be returned to their habitat prior to leaving the area unless their proper care at school can be guaranteed.



6. Unless part of an educational programme personal pets are not permitted at school between the hours of 8.15am and 3.30pm.
7. Responsibility for the welfare of animals rests with the teacher involved, but ultimately with the Principal and Board of Trustees. The following freedoms apply:

### **Care of Living Creatures**

#### **Freedom 1**

Animals must have appropriate diet, including access to water. Provision must be made for care at weekends and over holidays.

#### **Freedom 2**

Animals must have cages/containers of an appropriate size that are ventilated and hygienic. Extremes of heat, noise, draft are not recommended.

#### **Freedom 3**

Animals should be free from injury or disease. Any diseased animal should be kept away from school and treated.

#### **Freedom 4**

Animals must be handled/kept in such a way that they are not subjected to stress or fear.

#### **Freedom 5**

Animals should be able to express normal behaviour.

More information is available from Animal Welfare section of the Ministry of Primary Industries website: <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/protection-and-response/animal-welfare/>